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09/407,300	09/29/1999	HARUO MACHIDA	35.C13886	2583

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EXAMINER

NEURAUTER, GEORGE C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2143

DATE MAILED: 02/22/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/407,300	Applicant(s) MACHIDA ET AL.	
	Examiner George C. Neurauter, Jr.	Art Unit 2143	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 7 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 89-106 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 89-106 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2143

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 89-106 are currently presented and have been examined.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 7 November 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant argues that "Windows 95" does not teach or suggest wherein the steps as recited in the claims are performed in the order as argued. The Applicant further argues that "As a matter of fact, the Explorer of Windows 95 cannot display all the peripheral devices connected to the terminal device, without double-clicking the icon of the terminal device" and that "if it were intended to cause the Explorer of Windows 95 to perform the same display as that of the present invention...it would be necessary for the user to double-click the icons of all of the terminal devices". The Applicant has also admitted that the Explorer can "display the server on the network, the terminal device, and the peripheral device connected to the terminal device".

The Examiner respectfully submits that such an operation does in fact exist within Windows. The Examiner submits evidence, notably "Keyboard shortcuts for Windows", that when a user presses the "*" button on a keypad of a keyboard, all of the terminal devices are expanded such as has been shown in the

Art Unit: 2143

Explorer display as previously shown by the Examiner, to display each terminal device with its peripherals in one single step by expanding the tree metaphor within Explorer to its fullest extent allowing at least the display of all terminal devices and the peripheral devices and use status of these peripherals (see page 2, specifically "Windows Explorer tree control" and "Numeric Keypad *: Expands everything under the current selection") (also note that on page 3, the reference notes that the disclosures apply to "Microsoft Windows 95"). Therefore, such functionality is included within Explorer wherein the steps as recited in the claims can be accomplished in order subsequent to one user initiated step. Therefore, "Windows 95" inherently contains this functionality as shown by the presented evidence since both "Windows 95" and the presented evidence are drawn to the same invention by another and "Windows 95" discloses the limitations of the claim. The references cited in the previous rejection are applicable to the current version of the claims as substantially shown below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Art Unit: 2143

Claims 99-100 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 99 and 100 recite "the connection condition". This limitation does not have sufficient antecedent basis for the limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 89, 93-99, and 105-106 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by "Sam's Teach Yourself Windows 95 in 10 Minutes" ("Windows 95").

Regarding claim 89, "Sam's" discloses an information processing apparatus (page 129, specifically the text "Most networks consist of servers and clients, although some consist solely of workstations...Windows 95 is a client...") connected to a network, comprising:

Art Unit: 2143

a communicating unit, arranged to communicate information with each of plural terminal devices on the network (page 129, specifically the text "Most networks consist of servers and clients...Windows 95 is a client that can attach and share data with various server...and with a peer-to-peer network");

a domain information acquiring unit, arranged to acquire domain information of the network (page 131, specifically the text "...[D]ouble click the Entire Network icon. The Entire Network window opens, displaying the networks and/or domains available to you");

a first acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the domain information acquired by said domain information acquiring unit, to acquire first information related to the terminal device, from among the plural terminal devices, whose information is acquired by said domain information acquiring unit; (page 131, specifically the text "Double click any server or other computer listed in your Network Neighborhood window to see what resources are available to you. A list of printer, files, folders, or other peripherals may appear.")

a second acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the first information acquired by said first acquiring unit, to acquire second information related to a peripheral device which is locally connected, not through the

Art Unit: 2143

network, to the one terminal device whose first information is acquired by said first acquiring unit; (page 131, "Double click any server or other computer listed in your Network Neighborhood window to see what resources are available to you. A list of printer, files, folders, or other peripherals may appear.")

a third acquiring unit, arranged to perform an acquisition function based on the second information acquired by said second acquiring unit, to acquire a use status of the peripheral device whose second information is acquired by said second acquiring unit (page 111, specifically the text "You can check the status of a print job you've sent by looking at the Print Queue...[A]s you can see, the print queue window displays the information about the job", see also Figure 15.3, specifically "Paused" and "Status"; page 129, specifically the text "Access to shared resources, such as printers...; page 132, "To open any...other resource, simply double click the icon representing the resource");

a storing unit, arranged to store a data structure of the domain information acquired by said domain information acquiring unit, the first information acquired by said first acquiring unit, the second information acquired by said second acquiring unit and the use status of the peripheral device acquired by said third acquiring unit; and a display unit ("desktop"),

Art Unit: 2143

arranged to display, after said third acquiring unit has acquired the use status of the peripheral device and said storing unit has stored the domain information, the first information, the second information and the use status of the peripheral device, (1) information of the one terminal device, and (2) information and use status of the peripheral device. (page 69, Figure 9.1, specifically "Network Neighborhood"; page 132, specifically the text "To open any...other resource, simply double click the icon representing the resource"; page 133, Figure 18.2)

Claims 105 and 106 are also rejected since these claims recite substantially the same limitations as recited in claim 89.

Regarding claim 93, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89, further comprising a selecting unit, arranged to select a desirable peripheral device by a user from the peripheral devices displayed by said display unit wherein, a set-up operation for using the selected peripheral device is carried out in response to the selecting operation by the user via said selecting unit (page 107, "Installing a Printer"; page 129, specifically the text "Access to shared resources, such as modems and printers"; page 132,

Art Unit: 2143

specifically the text "To open any...other resource, simply double click the icon representing the resource").

Regarding claim 94, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89, wherein the peripheral device is a printer device. (page 129, specifically the text "Access to shared resources, such as...printers")

Regarding claim 95, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89, wherein the peripheral device is a modem device. (page 129, specifically the text "Access to shared resources, such as modems...")

Regarding claim 96, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89, wherein the peripheral device is an image input device. (page 129, specifically the text "Access to shared resources...")

Regarding claim 97, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89, wherein said first acquiring unit acquires information of a terminal device within a predetermined network domain. (page 131, specifically the text "...[D]ouble click the Entire Network icon. The Entire Network window opens, displaying the networks and/or domains available to you" and "Double click any server or other computer listed in your Network Neighborhood window to see what resources are

Art Unit: 2143

available to you. A list of printer, files, folders, or other peripherals may appear")

Regarding claim 98, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89, wherein said display unit displays a terminal device and a peripheral device, which are displayed, by way of display elements, and also displays existence of a connection between the terminal device and the peripheral device by connecting the respective display elements to each other on a display screen thereof. (page 65, Figure 9.1, specifically "Network Neighborhood"; page 69, Figure 9.2; page 132, specifically the text "You can display...other resources on the network drive in either the Network Neighborhood or the Explorer"; page 133, Figure 18.2)

Regarding claim 99, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 98, wherein said display unit displays thereon the connection condition of the peripheral device based upon a sort of lines used to connect the terminal device with the peripheral device. (page 65, Figure 9.1, specifically "Network Neighborhood"; page 69, Figure 9.2; page 132, specifically the text "You can display...other resources on the network drive in either the Network Neighborhood or the Explorer"; page 133, Figure 18.2)

Art Unit: 2143

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in

Art Unit: 2143

order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claim 90 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Windows 95" in view of US Patent 6 449 663 to Carney et al.

Regarding claim 90, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89.

"Windows 95" does not disclose wherein said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit, and said third acquiring unit poll the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof every time a predetermined time period has passed, and said display unit updates, the display content based upon the polling acquired information and use status, however, Carney does disclose these limitations (column 1, lines 18-59, specifically 45-50).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the information processing apparatus as described in "Windows 95" with the apparatus as described in Carney.

Carney discloses that polling a terminal device to acquire information and use status of a peripheral device connected to a

Art Unit: 2143

computer allows the user to collect information about the device at a regular interval (column 1, lines 46-50)

Based on the specific advantages described above in Carney regarding the use of polling and wherein a nexus exists such that the references are both directed towards acquiring information and a use status of a peripheral device locally connected to a computer through the use of a network, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of these references because one of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated the specific advantages of the secondary reference and would have been directed to the references due to the nexus connecting the references.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to achieve the limitations as described in the claim.

3. Claim 92 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Windows 95" in view of "Windows NT Server 4 Unleashed, Second Edition" ("Windows NT").

Regarding claim 92, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89.

"Windows 95" does not disclose wherein said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit, and said third acquiring unit receive and obtain both the information and the use status notified from the terminal device on the network, and said

Art Unit: 2143

display unit updates, the display content based upon the notified information and use status, however, "Windows NT" does disclose these limitations (page 448, section "Using the Network Neighborhood", specifically the text "To open the interface for browsing the resource a network has to offer, you double-click the Network Neighborhood icon on the Windows desktop."; page 454, section "Communicating Between Network Servers and the Browse Master", specifically the text "Servers continue to announce themselves to the Master Browser when they start at a rate of about once every minute. As they continue to operate, that announcement time gradually increases until it becomes one every 12 minutes.").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the apparatus as described in "Windows 95" with the apparatus as described in "Windows NT".

Since a nexus exists such that the references are both directed towards the use of a Network Neighborhood to access computers with locally connected peripheral devices on a network, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of these references because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been directed to the references due to the nexus connecting the references.

Art Unit: 2143

Therefore, it would have been obvious to achieve the limitations as described in the claim.

4. Claim 91 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Windows 95" in view of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Windows 95" ("Guide").

Regarding claim 91, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 89.

"Windows 95" does not expressly disclose wherein said first acquiring unit, said second acquiring unit, and said third acquiring unit poll the terminal device on the network to acquire both the information and the use status thereof in response to a predetermined operation made by a user, and said display unit updates the display content based upon the polling acquired information and use status, however, "Guide" does disclose these limitations (page 260, specifically the text "You can give Explorer a poke in the ribs by selecting the View menu's Refresh command, or by pressing F5")

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the apparatus as described in "Windows 95" with the apparatus as described in "Guide".

Since a nexus exists such that the references are both directed towards using Explorer, one of ordinary skill in the

Art Unit: 2143

art would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of these references because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been directed to the references due to the nexus connecting the references.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to achieve the limitations as described in the claim.

5. Claims 100-104 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Windows 95" in view of "Image of Device Manager in Windows 95" ("Device Manager").

Regarding claim 100, "Windows 95" discloses an information processing apparatus according to claim 98, wherein when said display unit displays the condition of the peripheral device. (page 111, specifically the text "You can check the status of a print job you've sent by looking at the Print Queue...[A]s you can see, the print queue window displays the information about the job", see also Figure 15.3, specifically "Paused" and "Status")

"Windows 95" does not disclose wherein said display unit selects an icon corresponding to the condition of a peripheral device from a predetermined icon group to display the selected icon, however, "Device Manager" does disclose these limitations (see icons "?" and "!").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the apparatus as

Art Unit: 2143

described in "Windows 95" with the apparatus as described in "Device Manager".

"Device Manager" shows that the icon group allows the user to view detailed information about a specific peripheral device (see elements such as "PCI Multimedia Audio Device" and "MS Windows Sound System Compatible").

Based on the specific advantages described above in "Device Manager" regarding the use of multiple icons to display information about a peripheral device and wherein a nexus exists such that the references are both directed towards using a display unit or "desktop" within a common user interface environment such as Windows 95, one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to combine the teachings of these references because one of ordinary skill in the art would have appreciated the specific advantages of the secondary reference and would have been directed to the references due to the nexus connecting the references.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to achieve the limitations as described in the claim.

Regarding claim 101, "Windows 95" and "Device Manager" disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 100.

Art Unit: 2143

"Windows 95" discloses wherein an icon indicates that a peripheral device is busy, and another icon for representing that a peripheral device is not under use (page 111, Figure 15.3, specifically "1 jobs in queue"; page 112, specifically "Empty Print Queue? If no jobs appear in the print queue...").

"Windows 95" does not disclose an icon group, however, "Device Manager" does disclose this limitation as described above regarding claim 100.

Claim 101 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 100 also apply to claim 101.

Regarding claim 102, "Windows 95" and "Device Manager" disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 100.

"Windows 95" and "Device Manager" do not disclose wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a moving picture representation.

However, these differences are only found in the nonfunctional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The operation of the apparatus would be performed the same regardless of the data. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. See *In re Gulack*,

Art Unit: 2143

703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the nonfunctional descriptive material with the claimed invention because such data does not functionally relate to the steps in the method claimed and because the subjective interpretation of the data does not patentably distinguish the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 103, "Windows 95" and "Device Manager" disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 100.

"Windows 95" and "Device Manager" do not disclose wherein the icon group contains an icon for representing the condition of the peripheral device by way of a mesh thereof.

Claim 103 is also rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 102 also apply to claim 103.

Regarding claim 104, "Windows 95" and "Device Manager" disclose an information processing apparatus according to claim 100.

"Windows 95" does not disclose wherein the icon group contains an icon for indicating that a driver program for controlling a peripheral device is not installed in the

Art Unit: 2143

peripheral device, however, "Device Manager" does disclose these limitations (see icon "!").

Claim 104 is rejected since the motivations regarding the obviousness of claim 100 also apply to claim 104.

Conclusion

The prior art listed in the PTO-892 form included with this Office Action disclose methods, systems, and apparatus similar to those claimed and recited in the specification. The Examiner has cited these references to evidence the level and/or knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to provide support for universal facts and the technical reasoning for the rejections made in this Office Action including the Examiner's broadest reasonable interpretation of the claims as required by MPEP 2111 and to evidence the plain meaning of any terms not defined in the specification that are interpreted by the Examiner in accordance with MPEP 2111.01. The Applicant should consider these cited references when preparing a response to this Office Action.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS

Art Unit: 2143

of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

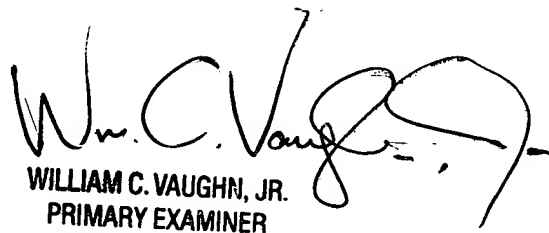
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George C. Neurauter, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9AM to 5:30PM Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2143

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

gcn


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PRIMARY EXAMINER